

MAY 2017 DIRECTOR'S NEWSLETTER



Dear **TechStars** Families,

Best wishes to all mothers and women who are important in the lives of our **TechStars** students. May you and your family enjoy a day filled with lots of fun, happiness and good memories on Sunday, May 14. Mother's Day has ancient roots and is celebrated around the world, although not on the same date as our holiday in the United States. Learn more about the origin and customs of Mother's Day at <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/mothers-day>.

Is the digital divide entirely different from what we think it is? Jeff Rubenstein, a writer for eSchool News, shares his opinions in a brief article with the same title as this question. Rubenstein claims it is not so much the accessibility to technology that a child has, so much as what the child is encouraged to do with this access that is at the heart of this query. Today more and more students at all economic levels are fortunate to have increasing access to technology, but not all of these students are actively involved with technology and empowered to become digital creators and problem solvers. Just having the hardware without these skills relegates users to be mere consumers. We at **TechStars** believe that guiding children to be active participants in today's digital world is paramount in preparing these youngsters for a successful future. We take this responsibility seriously and are honored to partner with families in this journey. Take a few minutes to read Rubenstein's article at <http://www.eschoolnews.com/2017/04/27/digital-divide-different/?all>.

At **TechStars** we value "un-plugged" activities that encourage family fun and build lasting memories. Consider the following suggestions for your family:

- **LEGOLAND® Discovery Center Philadelphia** Mondays-Saturdays, 10:00 am-7:30 pm & Sundays, 10:00 am – 6:00 pm. Plymouth Meeting Mall, Unit #1055, 500 West Germantown Pike, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462. Did you know the ultimate indoor LEGO® playground, officially opened its doors to the public on Thursday, April 6, 2017? If you have a young LEGO® enthusiast in your family, start planning your day trip now. Once your family arrives enjoy an interactive LEGO® themed ride, a LEGO® 4D Cinema and 10 LEGO® themed play areas! Please note: Adults must be accompanied by a child to visit LEGOLAND® Discovery Center except during Adult Only Nights. Standard Tickets \$19/Online or \$24/Walk Up. Children 2 and younger visit free. <https://philadelphia.legolanddiscoverycenter.com/>
- **84th Annual Dover Days Festival Day** Friday, May 5, through Sunday, May 7. Starting 9 am, various locations in Dover, DE. One of Delaware's largest, longest-running, FREE, popular events dedicated to promoting the heritage and culture of Dover and the state of Delaware. Dover Days hosts the largest parade in Dover with approximately 4,500 participants and watched by approximately 9,000 people; the Delaware's Governor serves as the Grand Marshal. Activities reflect Delaware's history and heritage as well as contemporary times and include the parade, traditional Maypole Dancing with 300 schoolchildren, vintage auto rides, colonial artisans' village, car show, historic re-enactment groups representing the Revolutionary War, WW II and the Civil War, children's activities, carnival, fireworks, exhibits and lectures as well all-day entertainment and more. <https://www.cityofdover.com/old-dover-days-4519>

- **The Aristocats** Saturdays & Sundays, May 6, 7, 13, 20 & 21. 2 pm, Delaware Children's Theatre, 1014 Delaware Ave, Wilmington, DE. Based on the beloved Disney animated film, this show is a non-stop feline adventure recommended for young children. When Duchess, the high society kitty, gets in trouble, feisty alley cat Thomas O'Malley and his band of swingin' jazz cats must save the day. Purr-fect fun! Come dressed as your favorite Disney character for the Costume Parade! No show on Mother's Day, May 14. Tickets \$14 online. No show on Sunday, May 14.
<http://www.dechildrenstheatre.org/project/aristocats/>
- **Fish'N'Kids** Sunday, May 7, 10 am – 12 noon, Lewes Canalfront Park, 211 Front Street, Lewes, DE 19958. Kids are invited to try fishing off the newly replaced docks at the Kayak Launch. Quest Adventure and Kayak will provide bamboo fishing poles for little anglers. Fish print T-Shirts craft activity until supplies run out. Free.
<http://lewescanalfrontpark.org/fbevent/fish-n-kids-10/>
- **97th Annual Wilmington Flower Market** Thursday, May 11; Friday, May 12 & Saturday, May 13. 10 am – 8 pm daily. Rockford Park, 2629 West 19th Street, Wilmington, DE. This traditional 3-day fair and festival celebrates growth and new beginnings, through the saplings that are for sale and for the children's causes it supports. From perennials to petunias, with some herbs thrown in for flavor, you'll find everything you need to start your garden for the year, along with music from nationally touring bands, crafts and food vendors and carnival rides for the kids. Rain or shine. Free.
<https://wilmingtonflowermarket.org/>
- **Beauty and the Beast** Friday, May 19, 10:00 am School & Senior Groups Only; Saturday, May 20, 12 noon & 4 pm; Sunday, May 21, 2:00 pm. Emilie K Asplundh Concert Hall, West Chester University, 700 S High Street, West Chester, PA. Brandywine Ballet Company presents a new, full-length work based on the original story by Gabrielle-Suzanne Barbot de Villeneuve. A powerful spell is cast to tell a story of family, love and passion as Beauty embarks on a journey through the forest and into a magical castle to meet the Beast. Enchanting characters of water flowers, bluebirds, and roses come to life to tell a tale of overcoming one's fears and vulnerability, and the lesson that beauty is so much more than skin deep. \$25-\$40. Call 610.696.2711 for information and pricing for Student & Senior groups. <http://www.brandywineballet.org/>
- **Zoo Kids – Animal Alphabet** Sunday, May 21, 10:30-11:00 am. Brandywine Zoo, 1001 North Park Drive, Wilmington, DE 19802. Enjoy a fun, interactive learning experience all about the alphabet. This program is geared towards young children and their caregivers, focusing on the animals of the alphabet. Program features an animal presentation with simple craft and activities. Learn about a different letter each week. Zoo Members: \$2 per child/1 free adult. Non-members: \$4 per child/1 free adult. Zoo admission not included. <https://brandywinezoo.org/event/zoo-kids-animal-alphabet-8/>
- **Dinosaur Revolution** Last day is Monday, May 29, 9:30 am-4:30 pm. Delaware Museum of Natural History, 4840 Kennett Pike, Newark, DE 19807. Catch this exhibit before it closes! Uncover facts, fictions, and fossils as your child LIVES LARGE in reptilian role-play activities. Undertake three Mesozoic Missions spanning 150 million years and mimic dinosaur behavior; become a junior paleontologist and find evidence of your dinosaur doings; learn why dinosaurs are one of the most successful survivors in earth's history and unearth a shocking discovery: dinosaurs may not be extinct! Sponsored by DuPont with additional support from M&T Bank. Free with Admission.
<http://www.delmnh.org/portfolio-items/dinosaur-revolution/?portfolioID=10203>

As your family heads outdoors and away from home this month, please be reminded that your child can enjoy age appropriate, quality technology games and activities with our free **TECHSTARS TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION** app curated by Playrific. Download this app to your mobile device from the App Store or Google Play. The username is **TechStar** and the password is **TechTurtle**, valid through August 31, 2017.

Sincerely,

Roni Deely

Owner/Director

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TechStars by Computer Explorers of New Castle County



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